

# ***Coalition Bulletin***

A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism

Volume #22, April, 2005



## **Estonian Soldiers team up with Armor unit**

**With a View to Iraqi  
Self-Determination**

## **Kazakhstan's unit continues helping Iraqi people**

**Gone but not forgotten...**

**Army brings doctors,  
medicine to village**



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**Cover photo:** Air Fest 2005, Mac Dill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

- U.S. hands off authority to Italy for Herat PRT.....1
- Estonian Soldiers team up with Armor unit.....2
- Afghan National Army receives 50 new trucks.....3
- US First Lady announces 20 million dollar education project for Afghan women.....3
- With a View to Iraqi Self-Determination.....4
- Gone but not forgotten.....6
- Army brings doctors, medicine to village.....7
- “It’s only with education that we can shape the future”.....8
- Kazakhstan’s unit continues helping Iraqi people.....9
- Snapshots.....10

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*“The assistance of NATO in the framework of ISAF International Security Assistance Forces has enabled Afghanistan to take drastic steps and make progress towards ensuring democracy. The presence of peacekeeping troops has paved the way for improving people’s standard of living as well as rebuilding national institutions, in particular, the Afghan National Army. Thus, our people are grateful for their cordial assistance.”*

**Hamed Karzai,**  
The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

# Editorial

*The Horn of Africa does not get the same publicity as some other regions in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), with its headquarters in Djibouti, leads the Coalition's counter-terrorism operations as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in this important part of the world.*



*In 1998, there were two deadly simultaneous terrorist bomb attacks on the US Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. 213 people were killed and approximately 5,000 injured in Nairobi, whilst 12 were killed and 85 injured in Dar es Salaam. Almost all of the victims were African civilians, as well as some US diplomats. The attacks were linked to members of the al-Qaeda terrorist network and showed that the region is not safe from terrorist activity.*

*The CJTF-HOA area of operations includes both the airspace and land areas of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, as well as the coastal waters of the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.*

*CJTF-HOA is not involved in combat operations. The main effort is to enhance long term stability, so preventing the re-emergence of terrorism in the region. There is an emphasis on mutual co-operation between CJTF-HOA and the countries in the area through combined exercises and regional partnership.*

*Developing an effective Coalition as part of the GWOT is not without its challenges. The main focus has been to develop an effective Coalition in Afghanistan and Iraq, and as a result, few countries have had any surplus capacity to consider providing support to HOA. But the threat in HOA does not require a Coalition effort on the same scale as that required elsewhere. Humanitarian assistance with small teams of medical, veterinary or engineering staff could do much to assist in preventing the conditions under which terrorism might take hold. Supplementation of staff for key appointments in HQ CJTF-HOA would also be very helpful.*

*It is much better to make some small effort in HOA now and so avoid the possible need to confront the evil face of terrorism there at some time in the future.*

**Neville Reilly**  
Brigadier-General, New Zealand  
Chairman, Public Awareness Working Group



## U.S. hands off authority to Italy for Herat PRT




The TOA Ceremony, which was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 05, represents an important step in expanding the international presence in western Afghanistan. The United States will hold onto the PRT in Farah, Spain will take over in Qala-e-Naw and Lithuania is set to run the PRT in Chancharan.

The same day Cpt. Bruno VIANNINI, the Italian Navy Officer who recently died in an air crash in Afghanistan, was remembered with the presence of the Italian Armed Forces Chief of Staff (Admiral Giampaolo DI PAOLA) and the Italian Joint Operational HQ COM (LTen Gen. Filiberto CECCHI).

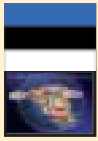


Task Force "Lince" (Italian for "lynx") deployed in the Herat PRT will be involved in projects focusing on school, roads, health as well as general support to the Afghan Government.



In addition to that, Italy has already taken over operations at the city's airport and Task Force "Aquila" is building up a FSB (Forward Support Base) there that will serve, as a logistic hub for the four PRTs in Western Afghanistan. Furthermore, Italy has got responsibility in appointing the RCA (Regional Coordinator Authority) a Brigadier General that, with his Multinational Staff, will inherit the responsibility from the US Authority by April 05. In and around Herat there will be around 400 Italians including personnel from the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. 





# Estonian Soldiers team up with Armor unit



**O**ne small European country is playing a major role in keeping supply convoys safe while moving through Iraq.

Each day, hundreds of trucks travel the roads of Iraq carrying cargo bound for military installations and forward operating posts.

One of the ways the Army is minimizing the risk involved in delivering supplies to Soldiers in Iraq is through a joint operation that includes Soldiers from 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., and a platoon of Estonian infantrymen.

The two units work together keeping each other safe while patrolling Gazalia Village, a 15-kilometer section of road in the heart of Western Baghdad that is known to be a hot spot for improvised explosive devices.

The American tank company, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, part of Task Force 141, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, doesn't have any light infantry Soldiers, so they rely on the Estonians to provide security for their tanks, and in turn they provide security for the Estonians.

"It's not too easy to cordon and search with a bunch of tanks," said Capt. Jade Hinman, Company C commander. "To have a group of Estonians who are good at what they do is like having a plate of brownies to myself."

"It is an honor and a privilege to work with Coalition Soldiers," he said. "It is great to have another country who works so well with us."

Hinman said he is sometimes the butt of jokes because many American Soldiers have never heard of Estonia and say it is a mythical country, but the Estonian Soldiers are some of the best he's seen.

"I'd stack them up with any infantry platoon I've ever seen," he said. "I'm not getting a second-rate team; I'm getting first-rate Soldiers."



Estonian Staff Sgt. Sigmar Zelinski and Cpl. Eiko Oim from the Scouts Battalion, Estonian Defense Forces, Estonian Peacekeeping Center, patrolling a street in Gazalia, Baghdad, Iraq.

Sgt. Michael Fragassi, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, works directly with the Estonians Soldiers on the ground, and said he was impressed to see their capabilities.

"I expected them to show up with outdated Russian surplus equipment, but they are very well equipped," he said.

"They have the same night vision as us, they carry Israeli manufactured Galils which are basically the best parts of an AK-47 and an M16 put together, and they are very well-trained.

"They are awesome outstanding Soldiers. I'd put them on par with our rangers as far as their training and weapons are concerned."

Estonian Army Capt. Neeme Brus, a media relations officer with Multi-National Corps-Iraq, said Estonia knows the value of freedom and the need to fight terrorism here, before the fight ends up in their own backyard.

There are currently 35 Estonian Soldiers in Iraq, and about 140 Soldiers have served on Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brus said that may seem like a small number, but in a country smaller than New Hampshire and Vermont combined, with a population of less than 1.5 million people, they have

made a major contribution.

Estonia's participation in OIF has not come without sacrifices. Two Estonian Soldiers gave their lives and 10 others have been wounded in action.

Despite the high-


casualty percentage, Brus said the Estonians are aware of the cost of freedom. After being under communist rule for 50 years, and gaining independence in 1991 after the fall of the Soviet Union, they believe in the cause.

While many of the countries who are part of the Coalition offer support strictly through logistics or engineering, Estonian Soldiers are on the ground patrolling neighborhoods and searching for weapons and terrorist hideouts.

"We are a small but effective part of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)," Brus said.

The Estonian parliament is preparing to vote on continuing their involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom in March, and the outcome will be known shortly thereafter.

"The public opinion in Estonia about our participation here is almost 50-50," Brus said. "But the Estonian Soldiers hope the parliament will extend the Estonians mission in OIF.

We have to prove that we are capable military partners for Americans and other nations in the Coalition. We want to be considered as a serious nation when it comes to international security." 



## Afghan National Army receives 50 new trucks



Story and photos by  
Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson  
Office of Military Cooperation –  
Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Balloons were tied to new trucks aligned in an L-shape, ready to be driven away. But salesmen weren't haggling with customers trying to make deals.

Instead, the government of India turned over the keys to 50 four-and-a-half-ton trucks it donated to Afghanistan in a ceremony held at the Afghan National Army's 1st Brigade, 201st Corps, motor pool at the Presidential Palace in Kabul.

The new trucks were the latest installment of vehicles donated by the Indian government to assist in the rebuilding of Afghanistan. The keys to all of the trucks were symbolically turned over from India's foreign minister, Natwar Singh, to Abdul Rahim Wardak, Afghanistan's minister of defense. "The successes of the Afghan National Army could not have been possible without the help and coop-



The keys were symbolically turned over from India's foreign minister, Natwar Singh (left), to Abdul Rahim Wardak, Afghanistan's minister of defense




New four-and-a-half-ton trucks are aligned for the donation ceremony in the motor pool at the Afghan presidential palace

eration of many nations," said Wardak. "Today we are seeing a very good example of such cooperation from a country with which Afghanistan enjoys historic and very deep-rooted ties of friendship and cooperation." To conclude the ceremony, Baz Mohammed Jawhari of the Afghan Ministry of Defense, Indian Defense Attaché Gen. Nair Balakrishnah and Col. Len Shartzter from the Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan signed the transfer documents. The delivery brings the total to 285 vehicles out of a pledged 300. Fifteen ambulances are scheduled for delivery in the next few months to complete the donation. "India has been an excellent partner, providing

support to Afghanistan and these efforts are very much appreciated," said Lt. Col. David Braxton, director of logistics operations at OMC-A, and the facilitator of the ceremony.

At the Bonn Agreement in March 2002, governments were asked to support the rebuilding of Afghanistan. The government of India agreed to support Afghanistan by donating the 300 vehicles. The deliveries began in June 2003. In addition to the 50 trucks donated at the ceremony, India has already delivered 100 two-and-a-half-ton trucks, 120 jeeps and 15 ambulances. The vehicles, produced by various Indian vehicle manufacturers, are

all new, although they are slightly different from their Indian counterparts.

The donated vehicles all have the steering wheels on the left-hand side. Indian vehicles, as part of the British influence from years past, are usually driven from the right-hand side. International donations are important to the future of Afghanistan, and of the Afghan National Army, a point not lost on Wardak. "It has been a very generous gesture and a good example of regional cooperation," concluded Wardak. "We are looking forward to further cooperation with the friendly government of India." 



## US First Lady announces 20 million dollars education project for Afghan women



Laura Bush, the US First Lady, visited Kabul on 30 March 2005. After meeting President Hamed Karzai, she addressed a meeting held by the council of Afghan women and the United States of America at the girls' hostel of Kabul University. Laura Bush was accompanied by the US under-secretaries of state for education, and a delegation of American women.

Upon her arrival to Kabul, Mrs Bush held a meeting with Hamed Karzai and discussed ways of improving the condition for Afghan women. Mrs. Bush attended a meeting held by the council of Afghan and American women. In addition to the American guests, the session was attended by Education Minister Nur Mohammad Qarqin, Soraya Paikan, deputy higher education minister, Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, head of the Kabul University, and Zalmay Khalilzad, the US ambassador to Afghanistan.

In her address, Mrs Bush said that education was a necessity for Afghan women. She promised to fund some projects to help improving the education system for women in Afghanistan. The projects include establishment of an American University in Kabul, a professional institute, a training institute to enhance the literacy level among women living in villages, and the training of community midwives to prevent the deaths of women in the countryside during child birth.

A total of 20 million dollars will be spent on the projects. 





# With a View to Iraqi Self-Determination



Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council Secretary Petro Poroshenko during his meeting with Wazit Governor Latif Hamid Turfa.

detachment soldiers neutralized approximately 1,500 explosive objects in Al-Kut, which is the administrative center for the province of Wazit. The hazardous find included over 1,400 mortar rounds, about 50 artillery shells and 20 hand-grenades.

After gaining the necessary skills Iraqi units took over checkpoints on strategically important roads from their Ukrainian colleagues.

The local troop increase and the quality of their training resulted in the considerable decline of terrorist activity in the province.

16 terrorist attacks were carried out in October 2004, none – in February and March 2005. As Colonel Serhii Chuchula stated, units of the Iraqi Armed Forces are gradually becoming known as the force of stability in the Wazit province and soon will be able to completely control the region.

**A** combat training and assessment detachment from the 7<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Detached Mechanized Brigade (DMB) in Iraq conducted a combat efficiency analysis of Iraqi military units, deployed in the area of responsibility of the Ukrainian Army. The 1,500-soldier-strong Ukrainian contingent is located in the province of Wazit, in southwest Iraq.

At the beginning of his assignment to Iraq in October 2004, Colonel Serhii Chuchula, chief of the detachment said, “the 800-man unit of the Iraqi National Guard (ING) was badly equipped and poorly trained.”

Under the Ukrainian soldiers, or peacekeepers, initiatives a decision about the formation of additional ING units was taken. Due to the efforts of Ukrainian instructors, the Iraqi Armed Forces' 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry brigade battalions were fully manned and trained (Iraqi National Guard troops were renamed to the Armed Forces of Iraq on February 8, 2005).

Gradually the skill level of Iraqi servicemen became sufficient enough to involve them in the joint tasks. Combined with their Ukrainian brothers-in-arms, Iraqi troops brushed up their combat skills in joint patrolling, counteracting terrorist groups, and disclosure and elimination of ammunition. Recently acting together in cooperation with a Kazakhstan field engineering



Ukrainian Major Andrii Goldak discusses the route with Iraqi frontier guards.

Now, in base camps “Delta” and “Zulu” the Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent conducts educational training for specialists of the 27<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Infantry Brigade.

In particular, almost 200 Iraqi servicemen are being trained in reconnaissance, demining, field engineering, signals, armored vehicle driving, mortar and machinegun training.



Iraqi officers together with Ukrainian Colonel Igor Krasota, Deputy Commander of 7<sup>th</sup> Detached mechanized brigade, pay a visit to the Iraqi National guard training center near the town of As-Suveyra.



Recently at base camp “Delta” the fourth graduation of the Iraqi military students took place. During one month, five Ukrainian instructors led by senior sergeant Max Faryna of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Detached mechanized battalion, carried out training of the future Iraqi frontier guards. 45 of 50 recent Iraqi recruits succeeded in their training and were able to conduct border protection duties the next day. They manned the units of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Iraqi Frontier Police division on the Iran-Iraqi border in the northern part of Wazit.

Commander of the Multinational division “Center-South” Major-General Valdemar Skrshypchak, Wazit Governor Latif Hamid Turfa and Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Frontier Police division Major-General Rashid Karbal were present at the graduation ceremony. All three accentuated the high skill level of the students’ preparation and handed top graduates a plaque. Also they thanked the Ukrainian instructors for their conscientious service and contribution to the region’s viability.



Wazit Criminal Police Chief and Ukrainian Major Andrii Gaponenko examine the seized weapons.

“We arrived in Iraq in a good time,” said Ukraine’s National Security and Defense Council Secretary Petro Poroshenko during his recent visit to Iraq. “Lately the Ukrainian political direction has seen a turn that supports close collaboration with the new Iraqi government.

Today, I dare say that for our state Iraq is one of the priority directions in economic, military and technical cooperation.”According to the NSDC Secretary, Ukraine is interested in the stabilization of the situation, stopping of




Ukrainian instructors train the future Iraqi servicemen.

the armed opposition and in the successful development of Iraq and in particular the province of Wazit.

Today there is a large necessity for skilled professionals in almost all key areas of the province that is gradually returning to a peaceful life. Now there is a problem of maintaining technical equipment to the Iraqi Security structures. Currently Iraqi forces are maintaining control over peace and stability

in the region.

There is another acute problem with the Iraqi army units and frontier and municipal police. They lack modern armament, armored vehicles and means of communication. Wazit inhabitants have great expectations that the Ukrainians will help them to solve these issues.

During the NSDC Secretary’s visit, the Province Governor Latif Hamid Turfa, on behalf of the Wazit population, expressed gratitude to the Ukrainian forces. Due to their huge contribution, which they made in support of peace and renewal of social and material infrastructure, the region is now safer today than it was prior to the war. 







# Gone but not forgotten...



Story by Capt Darren Steele  
Photo by Cpl Stephen Phillips

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**M**embers of Task Force Kabul (TFK) ROTO 2 of Operation ATHENA, in Afghanistan, have come home after a busy, sometimes tense, and rewarding tour.

Op ATHENA is the major Canadian overseas operation, with more than 900 personnel, 700 of them with TFK based in Camp Julien. Over the past six months members of ROTO 2 dealt with things like, the Afghan presidential election and subsequent inauguration, rocket attacks, improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and mines.

"I am proud of all the members of this task force and I congratulate them for their hard work and dedication," said Colonel Jim Ellis, commander of Op ATHENA ROTO 2. "I received compliments about their professionalism from many people, among them our commander-in-chief, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, and the former Chief of the Defence Staff, General Ray Henault."

Members of 11 Field Squadron also made a significant contribution to ROTO 2. Engineers designated more than 460 kilometres of new roads and teams travelled thousands of kilometres to produce NATO route recces, providing TFK and KMNB mobility information, vital to the conduct of operations. They supported scores of digging tasks and moved thousands of cubic metres of raw material to fix roads and build protective walls. EOD teams were involved in many tense situations dealing with improvised explosive devices. Altogether, engineers answered 33 unexploded explosive ordnance calls and destroyed more than 6 000 pieces of ordnance.

B Company, 1 PPCLI, ensured Camp Julien was secure through gate watch, roving patrols and observation posts, and kept a quick reaction force (QRF) ready at a moment's notice. B Coy completed close to 200 foot patrols (about 1 000 km of walking), cleared 40 000 vehicles and 30 000 people



Corporal Les MacLean, a member of 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, hands a desk to Afghan schoolchildren. The Canadians donated desks that were built for the school in Kabul, Afghanistan, so that the children won't have to sit on the floor during their classes



Sgt Peter Gagnon, an engineer with the 11 Field Squadron, inspects a mortar round on the side of a road before wrapping the round in a blast blanket to be taken and destroyed at Kabul, Afghanistan.

The Canadian Reconnaissance Squadron (Recce Sqn) provided significant capabilities to the Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB). The squadron had an embedded Recce Platoon from 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI) and numerous other attachments to augment its resources. Recce Sqn supported the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mandate, acting as the eyes and ears of the entire force, and operated throughout Kabul Province, providing over-watch.

Recce Sqn played key roles in several operations during ROTO 2. In particular, the squadron deployed into a full surveillance screen for nearly 14 days, providing information and an overt presence around key polling stations that disrupted attempts to discredit the election process. Another major operation was conducted to deter against rocket attacks. This continuous nighttime surge saw patrols moving to high-threat areas of Kabul. As a testament to the dedication of Recce soldiers, TFK and ISAF enjoyed the longest continuous stretch, 41 consecutive days, without a successful rocket attack.

through the gates of Camp Julien, and the QRF responded to dozens of incidents during their six-month tour.

The National Support Element (NSE) succeeded in a wide range of challenges; the handover between ROTO 1 and ROTO 2, more than a simple relief in place, due to the significant change in force structure, complicated by the mission drawdown and removal of a Battalion Group and the closure of Camp Warehouse.

NSE maintained a task force-wide vehicle off road rate below four percent during the tour, conducted over 3 000 convoys and drove in excess of 120 000 km.

Members of NSE co-ordinated movement of roughly two million pounds of freight, dealt with over 2 000 passengers and offloaded more than 170 aircraft. And NSE personnel provided everything from food and water, to haircuts.





Members of 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, unload desks that will furnish an Afghan school.

The TFK civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) team's focus was the education system. With the help of Recce Sqn, 11 Fd Sqn, B Coy and the NSE, the CIMIC team delivered over 300 desks to local schools. The desks, along with school supplies, tents, and office furniture will improve the educational environment for the children of Kabul. CIMIC also completed nine well projects, ensuring that the contractors finished each job to a high standard and bringing much-needed clean drinking water to nearby villages.

TFK was also very busy with fundraising activities: a camp humanitarian club raised nearly \$52 000 USD from international donors to help build and equip a local girls' school; the TFK military police platoon collected over

\$2 000 USD for the Military Police Fund for Blind Children to purchase specialized equipment and supplies such as a brail machine, brail slates, and abacuses for the Kabul Vocational Blind School and, on January 31, made a special delivery to the teachers and administrators of that school. TFK also raised \$4 400 USD for the Terry Fox Run and \$13 500 CAD for the United Way campaign back home in Canada.

The members of TFK ROTO 2 have come home knowing they made a real contribution to the future of Afghanistan that will not be forgotten.

*Capt Steele was the Snr PAO, TFK.* 



Cpl John-Luc Levesque, a member of Bravo Company, pauses to speak with a toddler during a foot patrol within the Canadian area of responsibility outside Camp Julien in Kabul, Afghanistan



## Army brings doctors, medicine to village




Story and photos by  
Spc. Tiffany Levesque  
20th Public Affairs Detachment



**FIRE BASE TYCZ, Afghanistan** - In a country where preventive medicine is not readily available, the Task Force Victory Surgeon Cell can make a big difference by going to remote villages to treat local people. "We are here to identify any medical problems the Afghans may have, treat what we can, and refer the serious cases to the hospitals," said Dr. (Col.) Richard Hines, a family practice doctor with the cell.

The surgeon cell is comprised of Soldiers who practice many forms of medicine. Doctors, veterinarians, medics, and entomologists are a few of the professionals in the surgeon cell here, said Hines. During operations, four stations are set up to control the flow of people and animals: a women's clinic, a men's clinic, a well-check tent for children and a livestock clinic, said Maj. Jamie Blow, a preventive medical officer with the surgeon cell.

"At the well-check station, we give the children de-worming medicine and a 30-day supply of vitamins," she said. "If they are sick and need to be treated they are seen in the clinics."

Nearly all the children in Afghanistan have intestinal worms, said Dr. (Col.) Stephen Jones, the commander of the Surgeon Cell. These worms stunt growth and inhibit nutrition and learning ability. "Respiratory diseases and intestinal worms are rampant here," he said. "To help fight them we are working alongside Afghan doctors and giving them materials to teach personal hygiene." At the livestock clinic, the animals are de-wormed and vaccinated. This is one way to help prevent the spread of diseases, said Jones. 



# “It’s only with education that we can shape the future”



Story by Major (FR) Frederic Feuillatre  
Communication advisor of French  
Commander

*President Hamid Karzai’s allocution during  
Djeddah summit for Afghanistan’s reconstruction*



Mr Mohamed Lal, with French military officers who conducted the project to it's final achievement

**O**n Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, an opening ceremony of the newly built Katacha primary School took place.

Built near the villages of Bandikhaneh, Sangaw, Shaykhu and Qal Eh Ye Miran the Katacha primary School will be able to give education to more than one hundred children of those villages. Seven classrooms, administration and teacher’s office, sanitary facilities are now ready for the new school year. Initiated less than 10 months ago by the French Battle group, with funds from the European community delegation for Afghanistan for an amount of 60 000€(100 000 USD).

After four months of actual construction, this school is now a reality for Afghan children. The French CIMIC teams under Lieutenant Colonel Hydulphe’s command coordinated the project with the G9 KMNB’s architect.

A key point of success was the execution by a local contractor giving job opportunities to local inhabitants. ISAF’s task doesn’t end yet, support is given


further to maintain the best learning facilities. The 13<sup>th</sup> of March, CIMIC team, legionnaires, and local workers, delivered furniture for classrooms and offices.

The weather conditions which occurred during the ceremony stressed the necessity of villages to have schools, even located so close to the capital. That’s why many afghan officials were present.

The education advisor of Kabul province, the governor of Deh Sabz Mr Abdul Gaffar Barriolay, the Maleks of Bandikhaneh, K a t a c h a , S a n g a w , S h u r a b , S e y y e d Hassan and Gholamqader Qaleh Mr Mohammed Lal, and some other malek and school

directors attended the ceremony in presence of Mr Yves Gauffriau education advisor for French Embassy, Colonel Hubert de Reviers de Mauny French contingent commander and Lieutenant colonel Tefvik Esmek G9 KMNB commander, the deputy–chief G9 KMNB Commander Heiki Mahlamaki. More than 40 representatives of the school and villages attended the ceremony.

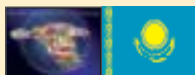
The Katacha malek’s son began the ceremony by a Holy Koran prayer. In his speech the governor underlined the excellent cooperation between the French CIMIC team and the villagers, and the very good relationships between Afghanistan and France. KMNB deputy commander highlighted the job of French Battle Group “without whose action, this project could not be a success” and he said that he is “sure that this close and successful cooperation will continue also in the future”.

After the speeches Colonel Hubert de Reviers, French contingent commander delivered the schools keys to the education advisor of Kabul province. Then it was time to cut together the traditional ribbon before entering into a classroom, where at it’s small scale, part of Afghans future promises to be made part of all the world’s pupils. 



For the moment, it’s only laugh and jokes with French Foreign Legionnaires, but the teacher is not so far !





# Kazakhstan's unit continues helping to Iraqi people



Story by 1st Lt Zhassuzakov Ospan, Kazakhstan Liaison officer

**K**azakhstan Peacekeeping battalion's EOD unit conducts humanitarian mission in Iraq within the MND CS in Al Kut by giving assistance to Iraqi people to reconstruct their land after the war. It has been 2 years since Kazakhstan started helping to Iraq.

During this period more than 3 million mines and other Un-exploded



Kazakhstan Senior National Representative in US CENTCOM General Makhmut Telegussov and US CENTCOM Commander General Abizaid discuss the possibility of transferring the Kazakhstan EOD Team to a new phase of OIF

personnel and prepared 35 students from Iraqi Army Regional Academy.

In As Suveira EOD section lead by Major Koyshibayev and Iraqi Security Forces EOD team conducted live training to gather and destroy UXOs. Kazakhstani militaries and their Ukrainian colleagues as instructors controlled security measures during the Iraqi EOD team's mission. As the result of Kazakhstan EOD unit's action the following goals were achieved:

destroying old, ex-regime ammunition and decreasing possibility of rebel's using it. Also, it is giving an opportunity to Iraqi Security Forces to conduct independent missions to clean territory of UXOs and to destroy them.

The water purification section conducts water drilling and purification missions to provide Coalition units with clear water within DELTA camp territory.

At present Kazakhstan continues conducting missions according to international agreements about Global War on Terrorism. Next rotation is planned to be in August 2005.

Training of Iraqi Security Forces personnel is a new task for the Kazakhstani contingent, and the unit is ready to conduct it during the next phase of operation "Iraqi Freedom" <sup>UN</sup>



Ordinances (UXO) were destroyed. All these UXOs are very dangerous for the local people and for Coalition members.

In August 2003 the Kazakhstan peacekeeping contingent came to Iraq. The present unit is the forth rotation. It is lead by Lieutenant Colonel Berik Kabylov. Usually, it is a 6 month mission. During that time the Kazakhstan contingent, serving within MND CS, fulfills the rotation. In Kazakhstan, all personnel of the EOD unit are going through special training on finding and marking on terrain UXOs and after that to destroy them.

The unit consists of 3 sections. They are: EOD section, water purification section and logistic section.

As soon as unit came to Al Kut, its personnel started to train Iraqi Security Forces

Kazakhstan sappers train Iraqi Security Forces





# Snapshots



## Japan to extend naval mission in Arabian Sea

**TOKYO-** Japan intends to extend its naval mission providing logistical support to the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan by six months. The current mission, scheduled to end May 1, will be extended through November 1 pending Cabinet's approval, which is expected later April, a Defense Agency official said speaking on condition of anonymity.

"There is still a need (for our mission) in the continuing U.S.-led campaign to stamp out the remnants of the Taliban, al-Qaida, or other terrorists," Defense Agency chief Yoshinori Ono told a lower house special committee session. Japan's navy has provided fuel for coalition warships in the region since November 2001, and has extended its half-year mandate six times since.

The dispatch to the Arabian Sea was the first in a series of decisions by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi that have tested the limits of Japan's pacifist constitution since he took office in April 2001. Koizumi has also sent about 1,000 Japanese military personnel to Iraq and surrounding areas for humanitarian projects. [UB](#)



## Australian troops to leave for Iraq



The first group of extra Australian troops to be deployed in Iraq will leave for the Middle East on 17 April 2005. Australia now maintains about 950 military personnel in the Middle East, with 400 in Iraq.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard announced in February that Australia would send 450 more troops to Iraq's southern province of Muthanna to protect Japanese engineers and help train local forces. The soldiers will set out from Darwin, capital of Northern Territory, aboard HMAS Tobruk for the 19-day journey to the Middle East, with 20 Australian light armored vehicles, stores, equipment on board.

The Tobruk has previously provided sea transport and logistic support to the army during operations in East Timor, Bougainville and Somalia. A defense spokesman said the remaining soldiers will head to Iraq by sea or by commercial air later this month and early next month. HMAS Tobruk will undertake training operations while still in Australian waters, army officer Captain Keith Wilkinson said. "They will drive out into the harbor, into open water and cruise around and participate in training activities in preparation for the Iraq voyage," Wilkinson was quoted by Australian Associated Press as saying. [UB](#)



## Iraq: IT Soldiers hand two more schools over to the Iraqis



The Italian Contingent humanitarian activities in support of the population of the Dhi Qar province continue, in order to re-activate essential service infrastructures. Two primary schools were handed over to the Iraqis on April. The first in Al Islah, north of Nasiriyah, and the second in Nasiriyah town.

The two infrastructures are part of a project foreseeing the construction of about twenty-five schools, whose implementation started towards the end of 2004. Together with the building, the necessary school furniture (Boards, benches, chairs, desks and chairs for teachers) has been donated as well.

Great satisfaction was shown by the Chairman of the City Council of Nasiriyah, by the teachers and, above all, by the children who also received some sport and educational equipment. [UB](#)



## US to bridge Afghanistan with Tajikistan

**KABUL-** The US military in Afghanistan is going to connect the post-war Afghanistan with Tajikistan by building a bridge over Oxus River, chief of US Army Corps of Engineers in Afghanistan said here on Monday.

"We recently made to award a contract for the construction of the Afghanistan-Tajikistan Bridge spanning the Pyandzh River at Shir Khan in Kunduz province. This bridge will serve as a vital link connecting the central Asian region with outside markets," John B. O'Dowd told at a press conference.

Kunduz in northeast Afghanistan has been serving as the base of more than 300 troops of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) over the past three years.



The contract of the 28 million US dollars project was signed with the Italian firm Rizzani de Eccher S.P.A of Udine on March 21, he added.

"This bridge will contribute to the economic development and integration of both nations. It will also inevitably contribute to the long term peace and security of this region," said John.

"We have requested nearly 800 million dollars for fiscal year 2005 and are pleased to show progress in effectively and efficiently awarding new projects to continue to improve the stability and living conditions in Afghanistan," the US officer said. [UB](#)